

Appln. of: BONATTI, Davide et al.
Appln. No.: 10/668,180

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-16 and 19-21 are pending. By this amendment, claim 18 has been cancelled and claim 21 added.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that the February 18, 2005 amendment to claim 1 is shown in newly cited USP 5,125,498.

Claim 1 has been amended to require (with additions underlined and deletions struck through):

means by which to guide the movement of the slides comprising a generally tubular element centered about the vertical shaft and which that presents a C-shaped cross-sectional profile, having a longitudinal opening through which the vertical shaft can laterally pass to allow replacement of, ~~and is centered on the vertical shaft,~~ the means by which to guide the movement of the slides ~~being~~ replaceable to vary the movement of the slides.

None of Vierling, DE '515, FR '166 or USP 5,125,498, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a structure where the means to guide the movement of the slides has a C-shaped cross-sectional profile having a longitudinal opening through which the vertical shaft can laterally pass to allow replacement of the guide means to vary movement of the slides. The guide means of the present invention can be exchanged by merely unfastening the guide means from the plate 35 (via a simple twisting action to unlock the bayonet connection), moving the guide means laterally out of the transfer unit structure with the longitudinal opening in the guide means allowing movement of the C-shaped guide means laterally past the vertical shaft and then reversing the process with the new track profile of the exchange guide means. The invention of claim 1 allows quick and easy exchange of the guide means to accommodate different sized containers on the processing line without lengthy and complicated disassembly/reassembly of the transfer unit, and expensive processing line downtime, as is found in prior art machines. See the present specification at page 9, line 22 through page 10, line 25.

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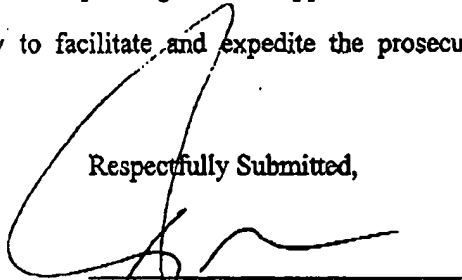
In view of this, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under Vierling, DE '515, FR '166 and/or USP 5,125,498 be withdrawn and the claims be indicated as allowable.

Since all the dependent claims depend directly and indirectly upon and contain all the limitations of patentable claim 1, they are felt to be patentable too for the reasons given above, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

New dependent claim 21 has been added (and claim 18 cancelled to allow addition of claim 21) and is directed to the bayonet joint that positions and fastens the C-shaped guide means. Support for this claim can be found at page 9, line 22 through page 10, line 25 and in Figs. 6 and 7.

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants' counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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